

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

A Naturalist in Tasmania. By GEOFFREY SMITH, M.A.
Oxford: The Clarendon Press. 1909.

MR. GEOFFREY SMITH, a Fellow of New College, Oxford, in this most delightful book has set down the results of a six-months' survey of Tasmania, carried out during the spring and summer of 1907-8. The expedition was undertaken at the suggestion of Prof. G. C. Bourne, the Linaere Professor of Comparative Anatomy at Oxford, and the aim thereof was to survey the freshwater fauna of Tasmania. The Author has done this, and much more, and in these pages the results of his trip are set forth after a most charming and lively fashion.

A fortnight was spent in dredging work on the Great Lake and incursions into the surrounding bush. This lake has earned a considerable reputation among fishermen for the size and number of the trout which it contains; and this is not surprising; for these trout are giants, scaling 25 pounds. They are, the Author remarks, the "ordinary English Brown Trout," introduced in 1864, which, by dint of good living and freedom from enemies, have nothing to do but wax and grow fat—which they do, having a superabundance of ground food in the shape of small Crustacea. But this diet can be varied at will, since the lake abounds with two species of native trout belonging to the genus *Galaxias*, which, swimming in large shoals, afford an easy prey to the alien race.

Of the Crustacea Mr. Geoffrey Smith had the good fortune to find a new form of the very remarkable ground-shrimp (*Anaspides tasmanicæ*), common at a high elevation on Mount Wellington and in clear tarns on Mount Field and the Harz Mountains. This new form, to which he has given the name *Paranaspides lacustris*, differs conspicuously from the typical *Anaspides*, and appears to be more of a free-swimming type and confined to the Great Lake. Here also he found several species of the peculiar Crustacean genus *Phreatoicus*. Several distinct species of the genus occur here and in great abundance. This genus is "confined to the alpine regions of Southern Australia and New Zealand." These two genera, it would seem, stand in the same relation to other Crustacea "as the Platypus does to ordinary Mammals."

Of the Giant Crayfish (*Astacopsis franklinii*), the largest freshwater crayfish in the world, some interesting facts are given here. All the specimens he found were "smothered with a parasitic flat-worm (*Temnocephala*) about a quarter of an inch long," and crowded together "in such numbers as to appear like a green foam covering the animal."

Of the larger and more interesting mammals, the Thylacine and the Dasyure, he has much to say that is worth reading, if not new. The Thylacine, at any rate, appears to be on the verge of extinction.

But as to these, and much more, we must refer the reader to the book itself, which is in every way a most entrancing volume.

W. P. P.